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SERVICE DATE - JANUARY 24, 2002

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 225X)

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY—ABANDONMENT
EXEMPTION—IN PIKE COUNTY, KY

Decided: January 18, 2002

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon 5.6 miles of its line of railroad between milepost HL-15.0 at Bane and milepost HL-20.6 at Levisa Spur, in Pike County, KY. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on December 26, 2001 (66 FR 66496). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on January 25, 2002.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in the proceeding on December 31, 2001. In the EA, SEA states that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) has identified three geodetic station markers that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. NGS requests that it be notified 90 days in advance of any activities that may disturb or destroy these markers in order to plan for their relocation. Therefore, SEA recommends that a condition be imposed requiring NSR to consult with NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic station markers.

The recommended condition will be imposed. As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that NSR consult with NGS and provide NGS with 90 days' notice prior to disturbing or destroying any geodetic station markers in order to plan for their relocation.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary